

Appl. No. 10/602,567
Amdt. dated June 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph.

[0001] The present invention relates to a mat supported jack-up platform that [ca]
can be used for drilling and production operations offshore.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph.

[0009] In the preferred embodiments of the present invention, the jack-up rig has a buoyant hull and a plurality of supporting legs that extend above the hull deck when the rig is in transit. A hollow mat is secured to the bottom of the legs; the hull mat has a central opening that accommodates the bottom portion of the hull. The mat with a large central opening has sufficient buoyancy to facilitate floating of the hull while the rig is towed and lowering of the mat to the seabed without assistance of conventional ballasting means.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph.

[0013] Figure 3 is a schematic side view of the mat supported rig of the present invention, with the mat embedded in the seabed.